

Amendments to the Claims

Listing of Claims:

1-49. (cancelled)

1 50. (currently amended) A system for managing telephone service for a
2 plurality of persons sharing a common telephone line based on determining whether a
3 person sharing the common telephone line is at the location served by the common
4 telephone line and for restricting completion of a telephone call from a the common
5 telephone line shared by a plurality of persons to permit said telephone call to be
6 completed only when a required person is present at the location served by the common
7 telephone line, comprising:

8 a transmitter accompanying the person and periodically emitting a unique signal;
9 a base station serving each person sharing the common telephone line at the
10 location of served by the common telephone line and containing a receiver;

11 said base station further containing a processor;

12 a base station database containing at least one unique record, said unique record
13 corresponding to said person and correlating said unique signal emitted by said
14 transmitter to said unique record in said base station database;

15 the base station processor being arranged to make an entry in the base station
16 database record that corresponds to said transmitter, recording a receipt of said unique
17 signal;

18 the base station processor being arranged to make an entry in the base station
19 database record that corresponds to said transmitter, recording a failure to receive said
20 signal for a predetermined period of time;

21 whereby the base station database maintains a record for each person sharing the
22 common telephone line indicating whether that person is or is not at the location served
23 by the common telephone line;

24 a telephone connection from the base station over the common telephone line to a
25 local telephone network controller located in the telephone network providing telephone
26 service to the common telephone line;

27 a network database maintained by said local telephone network controller, said
28 network database containing a plurality of network database records;

29 the base station processor being arranged, upon detecting a change in at least one
30 of said records in said base station database indicating whether a person is or is not at the
31 location served by the common telephone line, to initiate a telephone call over the
32 common telephone line to said local telephone network controller, to upload said changed
33 base station database into the network database, and thereafter to disconnect said
34 telephone call, thereby updating said network database to indicate whether each of the
35 persons sharing the common telephone line is or is not at the location served by the
36 common telephone line;

37 a database in the network controller of at least one subscriber telephone numbers
38 including the subscriber telephone number associated with the common telephone line
39 that have restrictions on outbound telephone calls;

40 for each of said subscriber telephone numbers that have restrictions on outbound
41 telephone calls including the subscriber telephone number associated with the common
42 telephone line, a database list in the network controller of at least one restricted outbound
43 telephone numbers associated with at least one of the persons sharing the common
44 telephone line;

45 a database in the base station of a list of at least one restricted outbound telephone
46 numbers associated with at least one of the persons sharing the common telephone line;

47 the base station processor being arranged, upon detecting a change in at least one
48 of said records in said base station database of restricted outbound telephone numbers, to
49 initiate a telephone call over the common telephone line to said local telephone network
50 controller, to upload said changed base station database list of restricted outbound
51 telephone numbers into the network database, and thereafter to disconnect said telephone
52 call, thereby to record in said network database an updated list of restricted outbound
53 telephone numbers associated with persons sharing the common telephone line;

54 the network controller being arranged, when an outbound telephone call from one
55 of said subscriber telephone numbers is made to one of said restricted outbound
56 telephone numbers, to check the network database to determine whether the outbound
57 telephone call is from one of the subscriber telephone numbers that has restriction on
58 outbound telephone calls;

59 when an outbound telephone call from one of said subscriber telephone numbers
60 is determined to be from one of the subscriber telephone numbers that has restrictions on
61 outbound telephone calls, the network controller being arranged to check the updated list
62 of restricted outbound telephone numbers to determine whether a number being called
63 may be completed only if at least one required person is present;

64 wherein, when it is determined that a number being called may be completed only
65 if at least one required person is present, the network controller is arranged to check the
66 updated network database to determine whether said at least one person is present; and

67 the network controller being arranged to permit said restricted outbound telephone
68 call to be completed only if said at least one required person is present.

51-53. (canceled)

1 54. (currently amended) The system according to claim 5350, wherein the list
2 of restricted outbound telephone numbers in the network database is updated by
3 telephoning-submitting a message by telephone, email or mail to a customer service
4 department within a the local telephone network provider.

55-56. (canceled)

1 57. (currently amended) A system for managing telephone service for a
2 plurality of persons sharing a common telephone line based on determining whether a
3 person sharing common telephone line is at the location served by the common telephone
4 line and for restricting completion of a telephone call to a the common telephone line
5 ~~shared by a plurality of persons~~ to permit said telephone call to be completed only when a

6 required person is present at the location served by the common telephone line,

7 comprising:

8 a transmitter accompanying the person and periodically emitting a unique signal;

9 a base station serving each person sharing the common telephone line at the

10 location of the common telephone line and containing a receiver;

11 said base station further containing a processor;

12 a base station database containing at least one unique record, said unique record

13 corresponding to said person and correlating said unique signal emitted by said

14 transmitter to said unique record in said base station database;

15 the base station processor being arranged to make an entry in the base station
16 database record that corresponds to said transmitter, recording a receipt of said unique
17 signal;

18 the base station processor being arranged to make an entry in the base station
19 database record that corresponds to said transmitter, recording a failure to receive said
20 signal when said base station fails to receive said unique signal from said transmitter for a
21 predetermined period of time;

22 whereby the base station database maintains a record for each person sharing the
23 common telephone line indicating whether that person is or is not at the location served
24 by the common telephone line;

25 a telephone connection over the common telephone line from the base station to a
26 local telephone network controller;

27 a network database maintained by said local telephone network controller, said
28 network database containing a plurality of network database records;

29 the base station processor being arranged, upon detecting a change in at least one
30 of said records in said base station database indicating whether a person is or is not at the
31 location served by the common telephone line, to initiate a telephone call over the
32 common telephone line to said local telephone network controller, to upload said changed
33 base station database into the network database, and thereafter to disconnect said
34 telephone call, thereby updating said network database to indicated whether each of the
35 persons sharing the common telephone line is or is not at the location served by the
36 common telephone line;

37 a database in the network controller of at least one subscriber telephone numbers
38 including the subscriber telephone number associated with the common telephone line
39 that have restrictions on inbound telephone calls;

40 for each of said subscriber telephone numbers that have restrictions on inbound
41 telephone calls, including the subscriber telephone number associated with the common
42 telephone line, a database list in the network controller of at least one restricted inbound
43 telephone numbers associated with at least one of the persons sharing the common
44 telephone line;

45 a database in the base station of a list of at least one restricted inbound telephone
46 numbers associated with at least one of the persons sharing the common telephone line;

47 the base station processor being arranged, upon detecting a change in at least one
48 of said records in said base station database of restricted inbound telephone numbers, to
49 initiate a telephone call over the common telephone line to said local telephone network
50 controller, to upload said changed base station database of restricted inbound telephone
51 numbers into the network database, and thereafter to disconnect said telephone call,
52 thereby to record in said network database an updated list of restricted inbound telephone
53 numbers associated with persons sharing the common telephone line;

54 the network controller being arranged, when an inbound telephone call to one of
55 said subscriber telephone numbers is made ~~from one of said restricted inbound telephone~~
56 ~~numbers~~, to check the network database to determine whether the inbound telephone call
57 is to one of the subscriber telephone numbers that has restrictions on inbound telephone
58 calls;

59 when an inbound telephone call to one of said subscriber telephone numbers is
60 determined to be to one of the subscriber telephone numbers that has restrictions on
61 inbound telephone calls, the network controller being arranged to check the updated list
62 of restricted inbound telephone numbers to determine whether a number being called may
63 be completed only if at least one required person is present;

64 wherein, when it is determined that a number being called may be completed only
65 if at least one required person is present, the network controller is arranged to check the
66 updated network database to determine whether said at least one person is present; and

67 the network controller being arranged to permit said restricted inbound telephone
68 call to be completed only if said at least one required person is present.

58-60. (canceled)

1 61. (currently amended) The system according to claim ~~60~~57, wherein the
2 network database list of restricted inbound telephone numbers is updated by ~~telephoning~~
3 submitting a message by telephone, email or mail to a customer service department
4 within a the local telephone network provider.

62-63. (canceled)

1 64. (previously presented) The system according to claim 57, further
2 comprising means for playing an announcement to a caller explaining that said inbound
3 telephone call cannot be completed if said at least one required person is not present.

1 65. (previously presented) The system according to claim 57, further
2 comprising means for returning to the caller a signal indicating that a telephone is ringing
3 without being answered if said at least one required person is not present.

1 66. (previously presented) The system according to claim 57, further
2 comprising means for automatically transferring a caller to a voice mailbox if said at least
3 one required person is not present.

1 67. (previously presented) The system according to claim 57, further
2 comprising means for transferring a caller to a predetermined alternative telephone
3 number if said at least one required person is not present.